

REMARKS

I. Introduction

By the present Amendment, claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 remain pending in the application. Claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 are independent.

II. Office Action Summary

In the Office Action of September 25, 2006, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,506,676 issued to Hendler et al. ("Hendler").

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 to incorporate the subject matter previously presented in the base claim and/or intervening claims, as suggested in the Office Action.

Accordingly, claims 9, 10, 12, and 13 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

IV. Rejection under §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hendler.

The cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 11 has rendered this particular ground of rejection moot.

V. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 520.43302PX1).

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 25, 2007